

Appl. No. 09/827,283
Amdt. dated April 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2006

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed February 3, 2006. Claims 26-51 were pending in the present application. This Amendment amends claims 26, 30, and 41, leaving pending in the application claims 26-51. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 26-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Kahn* (US 6,401,079). Applicants respectfully submit that *Kahn* does not teach or suggest each element of these claims.

For example, Applicants' claim 26 as amended recites a software product for processing time data and expense data, comprising interconnectivity software operational when executed by a processor to direct the processor to:

receive the time data into a program module,
receive the expense data into the program module,
store the time data received from the program module and the expense data received from the program module in a central time and expenses database, the time and expenses database being a single access point for a plurality of independent software applications;
create a first file of a first format compatible with a payroll system, the first file including the time data from the time and expenses database, and transfer the first file to the payroll system using a first interface, the payroll system including a payroll software application configured to process the time data; and
create a second file of a second format compatible with an accounts payable software application, the second file including the expense data from the time and expenses database, and transfer the second file to the accounts payable system using a second interface, the accounts payable system including an accounts payable software application configured to process the expense data

(*emphasis added*). Such limitations are neither taught nor suggested by *Kahn*.

Kahn instead teaches a complete, Web-based system that "combines the flexibility and functionality with a standalone payroll system with the convenience of a payroll service" (col. 11, lines 26-33). An application server coordinates and controls a variety of applications that comprise the systems' features and functionality, and communicates with a plurality of data collections (col. 11, lines 42-58). These applications are part of the complete system, and there is no suggestion that these applications are independent software applications having different

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data formats. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion that the system of *Kahn* can act as a single point of access for independent software applications having different data formats, or creating files in different formats that can be passed to these independent applications through distinct interfaces. Since *Kahn* teaches an overall system, there would be no motivation to include formatting modules to communicate with external and independent applications. The embodiment of claim 26 presents a single point of access that allows a single database to be used with different applications that require different data formats. This is very different from the overall system of *Kahn*. As such, *Kahn* cannot render Applicants' claim 26 or dependent claims 27-29 obvious. Independent claims 30 and 41 contain limitations that similarly are neither taught nor suggested by *Kahn*, such that claims 30 and 41, and dependent claims 31-40 and 42-51, cannot be rendered obvious by *Kahn*.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection with respect to claims 26-51 be withdrawn.

II. Amendment to the Claims

Unless otherwise specified, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter.

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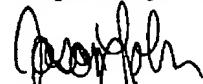
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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